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Application No.: 10/022,848

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-6, 8-11 and 13-20 are pending in this application. Claims 7 and 12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of canceled claims 7 and 12. Claim 1 has been further amended to recite a plurality of cassettes and that the currency is transferred between a cassette and the currency deposit/withdrawal port via the discriminating unit. Support for this amendment can be found in Fig. 4 (34a to 34e). Claim 14 has been amended to recite that the control unit of said currency deposit/withdraw mechanism acquires both cassette information and discriminatable range information, and that it also transmits this information to said main body control unit. Support for this amendment can be found at page 26, line 27 to page 30, line 9, line of the specification. No new claims have been added.

Applicant notes the Examiner's consideration of the information cited in the Information Disclosure Statements filed December 20, 2001, April 22, 2003, March 17, 2004, June 16, 2006 and September 7, 2006 as acknowledged in the Office Action Summary. Applicant further notes the Examiner's acknowledgment of Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and receipt of the certified priority document.

Rejection

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Awatsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,777,304). Claims 7 and 12 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection as to these claims moot. Independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter and to respond to the rejection.

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Applicant's invention is directed to an automated teller machine (ATM) for performing cash transactions. Awatsu et al. disclose a system comprising two separate units: an ATM 3 and a cash processing unit 1. In rejecting the claims, the Office Action confuses the components of the two units.

In Awatsu's system, sorted cash is loaded in the cash safe 2, which is set or placed in the cash processing apparatus 1. A person in charge then removes the cash safe 2 in which cash is loaded from the cash processing apparatus 1, and sets or places the cash safe 2 in the ATM 3 (the cash handling apparatus). The ATM 3 supplies cash from the cash safe 2 to the customer. See Figs. 1 and 3; col. 7, line 63 to col. 8, line 8.

As seen from Figs. 5A-5B, Awatsu's cash processing apparatus 1 includes an automated cash setting and recovering unit 6. Fig. 6 shows the construction of the Awatsu's automated cash setting and handling unit 6, from which cash is fed from the ten thousands yen bill cassette 60 or the one thousand yen bill cassette 61 to the personnel safe 20 of the cash safe 2. See col. 9, line 61 to col.10, line 41. Cash in the personnel safe 20 of the cash safe 2 is recovered to the recovering cash storage cassette 65. Thus, with respect to Awatsu's cash processing apparatus 1 and automated cash setting and recovering unit 6, a person in charge places cash in the cash safe 2 and recovers cash from the cash safe 2. Therefore, the Awatsu's cash processing apparatus 1 and automated cash setting and recovering unit 6 are not an ATM for cash services to the customers.

The Awatsu's ATM 3 is shown in Fig. 9. As seen from Fig. 9, the cash safe 2 is placed in the bill recycle unit (BRU) 30. Fig. 10 shows the construction of the BRU 30 in which cash that has been placed in the cash safe 2 at the automated cash setting and recovering unit 6 is fed

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to stacker 301a, 301b or 301c. Paper money received from a customer through the dispensing and receiving section 305 is sorted and fed to stacker 301a, 301b or 301c. Paper money to be dispensed to a customer is fed from stacker 301a, 301b or 301c to dispensing and receiving section 305. See col.11, line 39 to col.12, line 4.

The Awatsu's cash safe 2 stores safe information such as available ATMID in the money section 231 of the cash safe 2. See col.10, line 66 to col.11, line 2. When a person in charge sets the cash safe 2 in the automated cash setting and recovering unit 6 in order to supply cash in the cash safe 2, the automated cash setting and recovering unit 6 enables the person in charge to enter the safe ID and the available ATMID. See col.12, lines 37-44. When the person in charge places in the BRU 30 of the ATM 3, the cash safe 2 in which cash was placed, the control section 34 of the AIM 3 compares ID's to verify that the ATMID read from the cash safe 2 matches its own ATMID. If the ID's match, the process advances to the next step. See col.15, lines 42-67.

Differences Between Claim 1 and Awatau et al.

The Examiner made a finding that Applicant's "currently deposit/withdraw port" feature of in claim 1 corresponds to Awatsu's Abstract and description at col. 26, lines 12-16. A review of this portion of the specification does not support the Examiner's position. There is no description of a "currently deposit/withdraw port" in the Abstract or in the description relied upon by the Examiner. The description relied upon merely describes that a person in charge takes out, by hand, cash left from the left bill safe 22 of the cash safe 2. Thus, the Examiner's finding is misplaced. The "currently deposit/withdraw port" feature should be compared with the Awatsu's dispensing and receiving section 305 of ATM 3 shown in Fig. 10 of Awatsu et al.

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The Examiner made a further finding that col. 9, lines 61-65 of Awatsu et al. teaches Applicant's "cassette." However, the portion of the disclosure relied upon by the Examiner describes the automated cash setting and receiving unit 6, and not ATM 3. Awatsu's cassettes are not equivalent to feeding cassettes 60 and 61. Claim 1 has been amended to require plural cassettes and that with the currency being transferred between a cassette and the currency deposit/withdrawal port via the discriminating unit. This feature of the invention is not disclosed or suggested by Awatsu et al.

The Examiner indicated in the Office Action that at col. 14, lines 9-16, Awatsu et al describe the cassettes 60, 61 and cash safe 2. Applicant's cassettes would not be cassettes 60 and 61, but they would be equivalent to Awatsu's stackers 301a, 301b or 301c as shown in Fig. 10. The stackers, however, shown in Awatsu et al. are not disclosed or suggested as being "detachably mounted" as required by the cassettes recited in claims 1 and 14.

The Office Action refers to col. 5, lines 30-63 of Awatsu et al. as teaching Applicant's "operation information." Applicant respectfully disagrees. This portion of Awatsu et al. describes left cash. Awatsu's "left cash information" and "left cash returning information" differ significantly from the applicant's "operation information." The Awatsu's "left cash information" is shown in Fig. 43 and described at col. 25, lines 32-43. The "left cash information" includes information about customer and information about left cash. The Awatsu's "left cash returning information" is described in col. 26, lines 27-32. The "left cash returning information" is information wherein the left cash return date/time and the processed personnel ID are added to the left cash information.

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In Awatsu's system, paper currency that a customer failed to get is collected in the left cash storage safe 22 of the cash safe 2. See Figs. 6 and 40. When such left cash is collected, the left cash information is stored in a left cash file of the memory 231. Upon returning the left cash to the customer, the left cash information is displayed. Left cash collected in the left cash storage safe 22 is taken out with the person's hand in charge.

Claims 1 and 14 recites that the "operation information" in the ATM contains discrimination information indicating the range of currency processed by the discriminating unit. The discrimination processing by Awatsu et al. is in automatic cash setting and recovering unit 6, and not in ATM 3. See discussion, *supra*. Further, Awatsu et al. do not disclose or suggest that the discriminating unit provides information. See col. 10, lines 10-24. Therefore, the disclosure of Awatsu et al. does not disclose or suggest Applicant's "operation information."

The subject matter of claim 7 has been incorporated into claim 1. The Office Action asserts that the subject matter of claim 7 is taught at col. 14, lines 5-17 and col. 15, lines 1-14 of Awatsu et al. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Col. 14, lines 5-17 describes the automated cash setting and recovering unit 6 of the cash processing apparatus 1. Col. 15, lines 1-14 describes human judgment as to whether to reenter the number of bills to be recovered. As seen from col. 26, lines 1-11, in Awatsu's system, the left cash information is displayed on a color display for the person's inspection. Neither of these disclosures is a description regarding ATM 3. There is no disclosure in this portion of Awatsu's disclosure that the control unit determines whether the money sort information from Applicant's cassettes is made coincident or not with the money sort information of the operation information.

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The subject matter of claim 12 has also been incorporated into claim 1. The Office Action asserts that Awatsu et al teach the subject matter of claim 12 at col. 9, lines 61-67; col. 10, lines 1-55; and col. 15, lines 1-14. Applicant respectfully disagrees. These portions of Awatsu et al. describe the automated cash setting and recovering unit 6 of the cash processing apparatus 1, and not the description about the ATM 3. In addition, these portions of Awatsu et al. fail to describe the Applicant's discrimination information as recited in claims 1 and 14. The Awatsu's safe ID and available ATMID stored in the memory of the safe 2 are merely used to check whether or not they match with the ID of the ATM 3 itself in which the safe 2 is placed. Awatsu's system does not provide a control unit that determines whether the information regarding the money sorted is within the range of the discrimination information as required by claim 1.

Regarding claim 14, the Office Action asserts that the subject matter claimed is taught by Awatsu et al. However, as set forth *supra*, the Examiner is picking and choosing the components of Awatsu's two discrete units, i.e., the automated cash setting and recovering unit 6 of the cash processing apparatus 1 and the ATM 3, to make the rejection. The units are separate and distinct. As seen from Fig. 4, the Awatsu's automated cash setting and recovering unit 6 and ATM 3 are not directly and integrally constructed. A person in charge removes the cash safe 2 from the automated cash setting and recovering unit 6, and places the cash safe 2 in the ATM (cash handling apparatus) 3.

The Office Action further alleges that Awatsu et al. teach the claimed "main body control unit" at col. 9, line 50-60. However, this portion of Awatsu's disclosure merely describes the automated cash setting and recovering unit 6 of the cash processing apparatus 1. It is not a

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"main body control unit" for the ATM 3. The "main body control unit" recited in claim 14 is the main body control unit 2 shown in Fig. 2 of the present application. This may correspond to Awatsu's "control section" 34 shown in Fig. 9, or it may correspond to Awatsu's bill recycle control section 300 as shown in Fig. 10, although the functions of these two control units are different from Applicant's main body control unit. As claimed, Applicant's main body control unit performs two functions: acquire cassette information transmitted from the control unit and transmits operation information of the ATM to the currency deposit/withdraw mechanism. Neither of these functions is associated with Awatsu's control sections 34 and 300. In addition to the above, Awatsu et al. fail to disclose or suggest that the main body control unit receives discriminatable range information.

Finally, regarding claim 20, Awatsu et al. fail to disclose or suggest a center apparatus that controls multiple ATMs wherein the center apparatus acquires and manages (i) information indicative of a currency range which should be handled by each of ATMs machines, and (ii) information indicative of an amount of currencies which are stored in cassettes placed in the ATM's. Awatsu et al. disclose multiple ATM's in Fig. 4, but there is no disclosure that the terminal controller 4a performs the functions as required by claim 20. The reference is silent as to what functions are controlled by the terminal controller.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Office Action does not establish a *prima facie* case of anticipation of claims 1 and 14 over Awatsu et al., including the claims dependent thereon. It is respectfully requested that in view of the above arguments that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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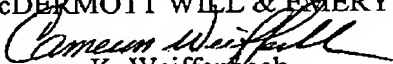
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Conclusion

It is submitted that the claims 1-6, 8-11 and 13-20 are patentable over the teachings of the prior art relied upon by the Examiner. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the claims is requested in light of the preceding amendments and remarks. Allowance of the claims is courteously solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for a one-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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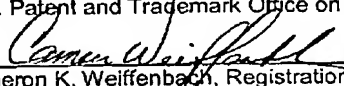
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